WE'RE ON THE MOON!

'Eagle Has Landed'—Words Thrill World

SPACE CENTER, Houston (UPI) — Man reached the Moon Sunday at 4:17.42 p. m.(EDT).

The landing by Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin E. (Buzz) Aldrin Jr. in a spaceship named Eagle capped a millenium of dreams and a $24-billion American project that opened the world of the universe to mankind.

FOR SEVERAL LONG minutes the world seemed to stand still. The cool space fliers called out their altitude figures as they dropped toward the Lunar surface.

At 220 feet: "Coming down nicely"

At 75 feet: "Looking good."

At 30 feet: "Picking up some dust."

Then finally at 4:17.42 p. m.: "Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has anded."

At the time of the landing the Moon was about 238,548 miles from Earth. Michael Collins, the third astronaut of the Apollo 11 team kept the command ship Columbia orbiting the Moon at an altitude of 69 miles while Armstrong and Aldrin eased their way down.

Collins was poised to swoop in and rescue his colleagues, had anything gone wrong. But now that they are on the lunar surface, they are beyond his reach.

After giving their landing craft's systems a quick check, Armstrong and Aldrin simulated a countdown to make sure everything was set for their blastoff Monday.

Armstrong reported there were several alarm signals during the final minutes of the descent and this took his attention from looking for landmarks that would identify Eagle's precise touchdown pilot.

THE LANDING SITE was on the lunar Sea of Tranquility, almost exactly on target. It kicked up a little swirl of dust.

"Very smooth touchdown," confirmed Aldrin.

Ground Controller Charles M. Duke told Collins in the command ship:

"He has landed. Tranquility base. Eagle is in Tranquility."

"You might be interested to know that I don't think we noticed any difficulty to adapt to one-sixth G," Armstrong reported. He said it seemed natural to move about in the gravity one-sixth as strong as Earth's:

This was a key concern of space officials, since they did not know how well the astronauts would be able to move around once they set foot on the lunar surface.

ARMSTRONG'S HEART rate was 110 at the time the descent started and it shot to 156 beats per minute at touchdown. The rate quickly settled down to the 90s.

There was no medical data on Aldrin.

Collins, in his first communication with "Tranquility Base," told his colleagues: "You guys did a fantastic job."

"Thank you," replied Armstrong. "Just keep that orbiting base ready for us."

"Will do," replied Collins.

ARMSTRONG REPORTED he could see "literally thousands of little one and two foot craters around the area.

"We see some angular blocks in front of us."

He said there was a hill that appeared to be a half mile or a mile away.

At 4:38 p. m. (EDT) Earth control radioed up land mark information in an attempt to help the pilots precisely locate their touchdown site.

DUKE TOLD COLLINS that Eagle apparently landed "just a little bit long."

The landing site was an oval, eight miles long and three miles wide.

Computer calculations before launch gave them a 99.9% chance of landing in it.

"I'D SAY THE color of the local surface is very comparable to that we observed from orbit at this Sun angle, about 10 degrees Sun angle," Armstrong reported.

"It's pretty much without color. It's gray, a chalky gray as you look at the Sun line and a darker, ashen gray as you look at 90 degrees of the sun."

Aldrin, called one of the best scientific minds America has ever sent into space, reported:

"WE'LL GET TO the details here of what's around here, but it looks like a collection of every variety, shape, angularity every variety of rock you could find . . . It appears that several rocks and boulders look as if they're going to have some interesting colors."

The rock samples the astronauts will collect are one of the prime purposes of the mission. Scientists hope they will give some indication how the Moon — and possibly the world — were formed, and perhaps clues to the beginning of life itself.

WHILE THE APOLLO fliers were landing, Russia dropped its mysterious Luna 15 satellite in a 9.9 mile high Moon orbit that carried it above the Apollo landing site. The Soviets still gave no clue as to its mission, but some Soviet space sources have said it might swoop down to the Moon's surface, scoop up some soil samples and try to beat the Americans back to Earth.

While history was being made on the lunar surface, Collins told ground control from the command module: "Let me know when it's lunch time."

Aldrin's wife Joan, who followed the flight from her home near the Houston Space Center, said it for the world when she exclaimed:

"I JUST CAN'T believe it."

Jan Armstrong sat on a bed with her youngest Son, Ricky, 6, and monitored the final minutes before touchdown. Mrs. Armstrong kept muttering, "Good, good, good" until the ship was safely down.

The Space Center has equipped the homes of the astronauts with "little black boxes" over which the wives can monitor the conversation between the spaceships and ground control. Mrs. Collins sat with the box in her lap during the final minutes before the landing.

The final phase of the historic mission began at 1:47 p. m. (EDT) when Armstrong and Aldrin separated their "Eagle" lunar lander from the "Columbia" command ship bearing Collins.

"EAGLE'S UNDOCKED. Eagle has wings," radioed Armstrong.

The lunar lander then pulled about 40 feet away from the Columbia and spun slowly while Collins inspected it from a command ship window to be certain there had been no damage during separation.

"You've got a fine looking flying machine there, Eagle," Collins radioed his colleagues after looking over the landing craft.

Then, at 2:12 p. m., Collins pulled the command ship two miles out of the way and at 2:06 p. m. the descent toward the Moon began.

—AP Wirephoto

Ricky Armstrong Waves Flag

RICKY ARMSTRONG, 12, takes flag out of holder and waves it back and forth at his home at the Space Center, Houston, Tex., after his dad, Apollo 11 astronaut Neil Armstrong and fellow astronaut Edwin Aldrin landed on the Moon.

Neil's Parents Look To God

WAPAKONETA, Ohio (UPI) — Apollo 11 astronaut Neil Armstrong's parents bowed their heads in church Sunday, asking God to grant his "help, wisdom and power" to the Moon landing mission.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Armstrong attended St. Paul United Church of Christ, the family church. The worship service centered on the Apollo 11 mission.

"Oh, God, as Thou has guided astronauts in previous flight," they prayed, "so guide Neil, "Buzz" Aldrin, Michael Collins and all others who are involved in the lunar flight."

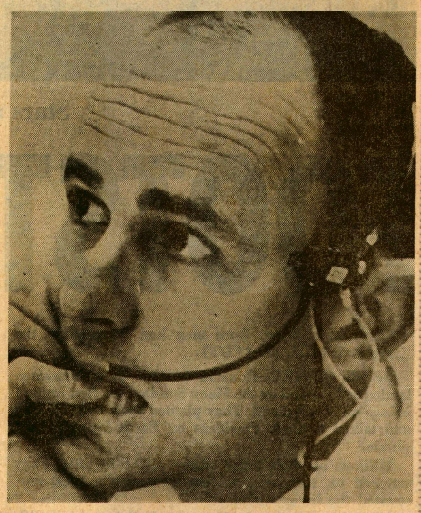
THE CONGREGATION asked God for "strong faith to fight our fears and concern" over the space crew's safety.

"Grant Your help, wisdom and power for a successful mission and a safe return," they prayed.

—AP Wirephoto

Thank God

MRS. STEPHEN ARMSTRONG, mother of astronaut Neil Armstrong, who Sunday night became the first human to set foot on the Moon, presented this mood Sunday shortly after the landing on the Moon. She and her husband conducted a news conference at their home in Wapakoneta, Ohio.



—AP Wirephoto

Really Sweating It Out

ALAN L. BEAN, a member of the Apollo 12 spaceflight crew, bites his fingernails as he watches the giant tracking board in Houston's Mission Control during the landing of Apollo 11's lunar module Sunday. Bean will be in the crew that makes the next Moon flight.

The World Waited... Watched

BY HARRY F. ROSENTHAL
Associated Press Writer

SPACE CENTER, Houston—They kept the whole world waiting while they dressed to go out, but once there, the whole world saw Neil Armstrong's "one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

Never before had so many been eyewitnesses to such high adventure: Armstrong's white boot coming down a ladder.

"It's different, but it's very pretty out here," Armstrong said as his eye roamed a vista a human eye had never held—the Moon.

The picture was like a nickelodeon of grandma's time, starkly black and white, somewhat jerky, hard to see. Like a 1923 movie, but with real life, breath-taking drama.

But it was man first stepping down to the Moon.

The whole world watched as Armstrong guided his companion, Edwin Aldrin, down that historic ladder, seeing Aldrin's foot tentatively seek that last step.

"It's a very simple matter to hop down from one step to the next, said Coach Armstrong. "It's very comfortable, you've got three more steps and then a long one."

And the world saw, and heard Aldrin—breathing hard from the unusual exertion—go down that last step, and then, for practice, leap up again.

"That's a good step," said Aldrin. "Yeah, a three footer," Armstrong said.

"Beautiful, beautiful," Aldrin added.

"Isn't that something."

Aldrin reached down.

It was fairly easy, Aldrin reported. He said he got his suit dirty.

The camera and the microphone picked up Armstrong reading the plaque on the side of their spacecraft:

"Here man first set foot on the moon, July 1969.

"We came in peace for all mankind."

And the electronic eye, 240,000 miles away, picked up the dawning light on the lunar surface, looking much like a glacial sea.

And the camera was held by man.

And it showed their spacecraft, Eagle, silhouetted against the cirving horizon.

"I want to know if you can see an angular rock in the foreground," said Armstrong, and it was interesting.

They looked like the Moon voyagers in every science fiction movie ever made, only this time it was for real.

In their white suits and square backpacks, they moved around their weird-looking ship, ghost-like figures hopping like aged kangaroos in a series of small leaps. But in the Moon's one-sixth gravity, steps carried them far.

It was 11:42 p. m. EDT when two Americans on the Moon floodlighted by the Sun, stretched out the Stars and Stripes on the Moon. One stepped back and raised a gloved hand in salute.

And still later, the President of the United States said to them, "All the people on Earth are surely one in their pride of what you have done," and they said "Thank you very much."

And the whole world watched.

... July 20, 1969

NEW YORK (UPI)—The date July 20, 1969, will probably become as familiar to every schoolboy as October 12, 1492, with astronauts Neil Armstrong, Edwin Aldrin Jr. and Michael Collins joining Columbus in the gallery of explorers.

Among the events which have taken place on previous July 20ths are:

1917—Alexander Kerensky was installed as head of Russia's provisional government.

1923 — Rebel leader "Pancho" Villa was assassinated at Parral, Mexico.

1945 — The American flag was raised over Berlin and U. S. troops prepared to take over part of the occupied city.

Memorable July 21sts include:

1588—The battle of the Spanish Armada began, marking the decline of Spain as a power.

1861—The first Battle of Bull Run began.

1873—Jesse James pulled off the world's first recorded train robbery.

1930—The Veterans Administration was formed.

1949—The Senate ratified U. S. membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.